

## CLAIMS

1. A pressure vessel comprising

5 a top wall, a bottom wall, a side wall extending between the top wall and the bottom wall, and a chamber formed by said walls,

inlet means extending through one of the walls for introducing fluid to the pressure vessel,

10 outlet means extending through one of the walls for removing fluid from the pressure vessel, the outlet means including an outlet port,

a pressure gradient member located within the chamber of the pressure vessel through which fluid passing through the pressure vessel flows as the fluid passes through the pressure vessel, the pressure gradient member including an outlet port, and

15 flexible resilient tube means extending between the outlet port of the pressure gradient member and the outlet port of the outlet means for mounting the pressure gradient member within the chamber formed by the walls of the pressure vessel and for connecting the outlet port of the pressure gradient member to the outlet port of the outlet means.

20 2. The pressure vessel of claim 1, the flexible resilient tube member comprising

a flexible resilient tube,

the flexible resilient tube having a first end portion and a second end portion, the first end portion being mounted over the outlet port of the pressure gradient

member and the second end portion being mounted over the outlet port of the outlet means.

3. The pressure vessel of claim 1, the pressure gradient member comprising

5 a cartridge.

4. The pressure vessel of claim 1,  
the flexible resilient tube means comprising a flexible resilient tube, the flexible resilient tube having a first end portion and a second end portion, the first end portion being mounted over the outlet port of the pressure gradient member and the second end portion being mounted over the outlet port of the outlet means, and  
10 the pressure gradient member comprising a cartridge.

5. A pressure vessel comprising  
a top wall, a bottom wall, a side wall extending between the top wall and the bottom wall, and a chamber formed by said walls,

15 inlet means extending through one of the walls for introducing fluid to the pressure vessel,

outlet means extending through one of the walls for removing fluid from the pressure vessel, the outlet means including an outlet port,

a pressure gradient member located within the chamber of the pressure vessel  
20 through which fluid passing through the pressure vessel flows as the fluid passes through the pressure vessel, the pressure gradient member including an outlet port, and  
flexible resilient tube means extending between the outlet port of the pressure

gradient member and the outlet port of the outlet means for mounting the pressure  
gradient member within the chamber formed by the walls of the pressure vessel and  
for connecting the outlet port of the pressure gradient member to the outlet port of the  
outlet means and for providing substantially uniform support of a load on the pressure  
gradient member created by side impact to the pressure vessel.

6. The pressure vessel of claim 5, the flexible resilient tube means  
comprising

a flexible resilient tube,

the flexible resilient tube having a first end portion and a second end portion,  
the first end portion being mounted over the outlet port of the pressure gradient  
member and the second end portion being mounted over the outlet port of the outlet  
means.

7. The pressure vessel of claim 5, the pressure gradient member  
comprising

a cartridge.

8. The pressure vessel of claim 5,

the flexible resilient tube means comprising a flexible resilient tube, the flexible  
resilient tube having a first end portion and a second end portion, the first end portion  
being mounted over the outlet port of the pressure gradient member and the second  
end portion being mounted over the outlet port of the outlet means, and

the pressure gradient member comprising a cartridge.